

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HELSIN 00322 141153Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

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FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

INFO AMEMBASSY COPEHNAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 0322

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XZ, PINT, FI

SUBJECT: FINNISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATS AND NORDIC
COOPERATION

REF: (A) HELSINKI 313 (B) STOCKHOLM 711

1. SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (SDP) POLICY PLANNING
SECRETARY PAAVO LIPPONEN, WHO IN EFFECT ACTING SDP
SECRETARY GENERAL WHILE SORSA BUSY AS PRIME MINISTER, FEB 13
TOLD POLOFF THAT DEMARI EDITORIAL DESCRIBED IN REFTEL DID
NOT FORMALLY REPRESENT VIEWS OF SDP LEADERSHIP, SINCE EDITORIAL
HAD NOT BEEN "CHECKED OUT" AT PARTY HEADQUARTERS.
HE SAID THAT EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF DEMARI WAS NOT AT
FAULT BECAUSE HE HAD IN FACT SENT EDITORIAL TO PARTY
FOR REVIEW, EDITORIAL NONETHELESS HAD NOT GONE
THROUGH NORMAL PARTY REVIEW PROCESS.

2. LIPPONEN SAID THAT SOME OF POINTS IN EDITORIAL,
PARTICULARLY THOSE HAVING TO DO WITH THE POSSIBLE
DRIFTING APART OF NORDIC COUNTRIES, HAVE BEEN
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PAGE 02 HELSIN 00322 141153Z

DISCUSSED PREVIOUSLY IN VARIOUS PARTY COUNCILS AND

MOST RECENTLY WITHIN SDP MINISTERIAL GROUP.
APPARENTLY AS RESULT OF THESE DISCUSSIONS AND RE-
ACTION TO DEMARI EDITORIAL THE FINNISH SOCIAL
DEMOCRATS INTEND HAVE PRIME MINISTER SORSA MAKE
SOME "EXPLANATORY" STATEMENTS AT UP-COMING NORDIC
COUNCIL MEETING IN REYKJAVIK.

3. LIPPONEN CLAIMED THAT SDP DOES TAKE NORDIC
COOPERATION AND ITS PROBLEMS VERY SERIOUSLY AND
THAT IT FEELS THAT A PUBLIC DEBATE IS IN ORDER.
ACCORDING TO LIPPONEN, SDP IS BASICALLY ALL IN
FAVOR OF CONTINUED CLOSE COOPERATION WITH NORDIC
COUNTRIES ON NON-CONTROVERSIAL PRACTICAL MATTERS.
AT SAME TIME, SDP FEELS THAT ONE CANNOT TALK ANY
LMORE OF NORDIC AREA AS A COHESIVE ONE AND THAT IT
IS CLEAR THAT INTEGRATIVE FORCES WHICH HAVE BEEN AT
WORK IN PAST FEW YEARS ARE NO LONGER AS STRONG AS
EARLIER. MAIN REASON FOR THIS BEING THE CASE,
ACCORDING TO LIPPONEN, IS FACT THAT DENMARK HAS TURNED
MORE AND MORE TO EEC, THAT NEW SITUATION HAS
DEVELOPED IN NORWAY BECAUSE OF OIL, AND, PERHAPS
MOST IMPORTANTLY, THAT SWEDEN SEEMS TO BE ABAN-
ONING TO SOME EXTENT BOTH ITS TRADITIONAL POLICY
OF NEUTRALITY AND NORDIC ORIENTATION. LIPPONEN
FEELS THAT NORDIC COUNTRIES INEVITABLY WILL COME
TO HAVE MORE AND MORE THEIR OWN SEPARATE IDENTITIES.
THIS DOES NOT MEAN, ACCORDING TO HIM, THAT FINLAND
HAS ANY PARTICULAR WISH TO DRAW AWAY FROM OTHER
NORDICS UNLESS FORCED TO DO SO BY EVENTS.

4. FOR IMMEDIATE FUTURE LIPPONEN IS AFRAID THAT
DEBATE IN FINLAND WILL BE MORE EMOTIONAL THAN FACTUAL
AND THAT OTHER NORDICS, PERHAPS AS SOON AS REYKJAVIK
MEETING, MAY TAKE STRONG ISSUE PUBLICLY WITH SOME OF
POINTS PUT FORTH IN DEMARI EDITORIAL.

5. COMMENT: GREAT NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN FINLAND
FEEL VERY STRONGLY ABOUT IMPORTANCE FINLAND'S
TIES WITH ITS NORDIC NEIGHBORS PER SE AND
AS COUNTERING SOMEHOW SOVIET PULL TO EAST. SOCIAL
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PAGE 03 HELSIN 00322 141153Z

DEMOCRATS MAY YET RUE THE DAY THAT THEY TOOK LAD IN
QUESTIONING NORDIC TIES. NEVERTHELESS, FACT REMAINS
THAT THERE HAVE BEEN SIGNS OF LESS COHESION
RECENTLY AMONG NORDICS. IT MAY WELL BE THAT
FINNISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATS ARE PARTICLULY
CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT THEY SEE AS SWEDEN'S
DRIFT TOWARD WEST AND RECENT SHARPENED SOVIET
REACTION THERETO.

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